

REMARKS

Claims 5-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 5-14 are allowable.

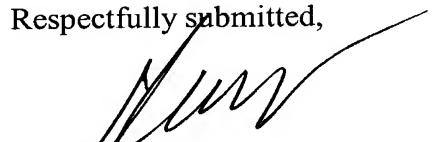
Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the cancellation of claims 1-4 and 15 place the application in condition for allowance and do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hisada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,743,527). The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-4 and 15. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: September 26, 2008

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